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Southern District of New York*

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PAKISTANI MAN CHARGED WITH FALSELY TELLING THE FBI THAT
AL QAEDA WAS PLANNING ATTACK ON HOLLAND AND LINCOLN TUNNELS

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, KEVIN P. DONOVAN, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, and RAYMOND W. KELLY, the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"), announced that KHURAM S. YOUSIFZAI was charged today in a criminal Complaint with making false statements and representations to FBI agents on June 21, 2003, to the effect that he had information that a terrorist group associated with Al Qaeda was planning to attack the Holland and Lincoln Tunnels within the next 72 hours.

According to the Complaint filed today in Manhattan federal court, YOUSIFZAI called 911 on several occasions at approximately 5:00 a.m. on June 21, 2003. He allegedly arranged to meet with NYPD officers, and was later interviewed by members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force ("JTTF"), which is comprised of, among others, agents from the FBI and detectives from the

NYPD. During his debriefings with members of the JTTF, YOUSIFZAI falsely stated that he had been contacted by an old friend from Pakistan, whom he identified as "Mohamed Sohail-Ali", or "Ali", according to the Complaint. According to YOUSIFZAI, "Ali" and 11 associates, all Arab men, came to YOUSIFZAI's apartment building and went to the roof of the building to attend a party. There, YOUSIFZAI claimed that "Ali" told him the details of a plot to attack the Lincoln and Holland Tunnels with explosive-laden vehicles, and invited him to participate in the attack. "Ali" purportedly told YOUSIFZAI that the attack was going to take place within 72 hours.

YOUSIFZAI further told the members of the JTTF that "Ali" and his associates were taking part in a "jihad" -- or holy war -- against America, and that they were members of a Pakistani group that YOUSIFZAI claimed was associated with Al Qaeda, according to the Complaint. YOUSIFZAI allegedly indicated that he was supposed to provide "Ali" a final answer regarding his participation in the attack at a meeting on Saturday, June 21, 2003 at 5:30 p.m., in a midtown Manhattan restaurant.

According to the Complaint, when YOUSIFZAI was taken to the location for the meeting, he attempted to flee through the bathroom window of the restaurant. YOUSIFZAI later allegedly admitted that he had concocted the entire story regarding "Ali" and the imminent terrorist attack. YOUSIFZAI admitted that he

had been high on cocaine, and had been drinking and using marijuana, and had wanted to be a "big man" and an "FBI agent," as charged in the Complaint. Members of the JTTF also interviewed several witnesses, who contradicted key portions of YOUSIFZAI's story, according to the Complaint.

YOUSIFZAI, 23, resides in Manhattan.

YOUSIFZAI is scheduled to be presented on the Complaint before United States Magistrate Judge THEODORE H. KATZ later today.

If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 fine or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offense.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the Joint Terrorism Task Force in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney JONATHAN S. KOLODNER is in charge of the prosecution.

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